Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. (US Publication No. 20030167281). Claims 6-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen et al. in view of Dourish et al. ("Freeflow: Mediating Between Representation and Action in Workflow Systems," November 1996, pp. 190-198). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants are concerned with the problem of retaining a complete record of all processing information pertaining to a particular document over the life-time of the document. Applicants solve this problem with their meta-document. With Applicants' meta-document, documents when processed, for example, when they are transformed from one format into another, or copied, or distributed or commented upon, do not lose any of the information they had in their previous form. Each step in the document cycle process, i.e., during the entire life-time of the document (including reading and usage), going from authoring to modification to publishing and printing to reading and using, is considered a different view of the same data or modifies a different aspect of the document. Information pertaining to each processing step is stored with the document along with metadata for indexing and retrieving the processing information. By storing a record of all the various processing and the results of the processing performed on a particular document, and making that information retrievable, users in an organization have the opportunity to come back to some piece of information about a document that later turned out to be of great importance.

Applicants' meta-document tracks <u>all information pertaining to actions performed by an application program on a document during its entire lifetime</u> and stores this information on the meta-document. Each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, that processing information is stored in the meta-document. Each time the meta-document is processed by an application program being executed by the data processing system during the entire life of the meta-document, the associated metadata is stored in the meta-document.

In contrast, Cohen et al. is concerned with collaborate computing, with software tools for improving collaborative working among a group of people working together on a project or task involving a defined set of documents. See paragraph [0003]. Cohen et al. is group focused (paragraph [0015]) and provides "a people and document centered awareness tool which serves as a entrée into a comprehensive suite of collaborative tools for easy and effective collaboration on a project." See paragraph [0025]. A document management system such as DOMINO acts as the meta-data repository for the projects and provides the mechanism for managing documents and their versions. (See paragraph [0038].)

In Cohen et al, processing information is not stored with the document. A UI program searches the repository for notes associated with a document, whether any activity has been performed on the document since its creation and displays the results in a document tool bar 210 in a display screen for a user. See paragraph [0048]. In contrast, in Applicants' meta-document, all processing information is stored on the meta-document.

In Cohen et al, document history for a document is stored using a collaborative tool. Document history is not necessarily complete, since the file only stores automatically those management tasks running on the server. The document history file also stores manually input information, such as when a document is "sent to opposing counsel". See paragraph [0056]. In contrast, Applicants' meta-document stores all processing information on the meta-document. Applicant's meta-document comprises a complete history of all processing of the document.

Dourish et al, like Cohen et al. is concerned with work flow systems and processes, for relieving users of the burden of coordination and managing tasks associated with a project. Nothing in Dourish et al overcomes the lack of teachings in Cohen et al.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment; however, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

Consideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner considers a personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case,

the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Attorney for Applicants, Jeannette Walder.

Respectfully submitted,

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Xerox Corporation
Santa Ana, California
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